

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04  
SIL-01 CU-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 USSS-00 TRSE-00 /100 W  
-----151626Z 079163 /45

O R 141540Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6273

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE 15

SUMMARY: PRESS HAS REPORTED EXPLOSION WHICH DAMAGED BUSY  
COMMUTER RAIL LINE OUTSIDE DURBAN EARLY THIS MORNING (JUNE 15)  
AND TERMED BY POLICE AS WORK OF "SABOTEURS". SITUATION  
REMAINS TENSE IN URBAN TOWNSHIPS. DEMONSTRATIONS AND CLASS  
BOYCOTTS REPORTED AT A NUMBER OF SOWETO SCHOOLS. HOW TOWN-  
SHIP RESIDENTS IN JOHANNESBURG-PRETORIA AND CAPE TOWN AREAS  
WILL RESPOND TO CALLS FOR WORK BOYCOTT BEGINNING TOMORROW  
IS QUESTION OF MAJOR CONCERN. END SUMMARY

1. CAPE TOWN - NO INCIDENTS REPORTED IN TOWNSHIPS. RIOT  
POLICE CONTINUE TO BE MUCH IN EVIDENCE. MANY RESIDENTS  
REPORTED UNCERTAIN HOW TO RESPOND TO CALL FOR WORK BOYCOTT  
BEGINNING TOMORROW, FEARING RETALIATION IF THEY IGNORE IT.

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2. DURBAN - AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS AN EXPLOSION DAMAGED  
THE RAIL LINE FROM THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OF UMLAZI INTO DURBAN  
AT 0320 THIS MORNING. POLICE STATE THEY REGARD IT AS  
SABOTAGE BUT HAVE NO IDEA WHO SET THE BLAST AND ARE INTEN-  
SIVELY INVESTIGATING. REPORTERS HAVE TOLD CONOFFS THAT ONLY  
ONE RAIL WAS DISLODGED BUT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF GRAVEL  
WAS SCATTERED INDICATING IT MAY HAVE BEEN A LARGE BUT POORLY

PLACED DEVICE. OF TWO INBOUND TRACKS AT POINT OF EXPLOSION ONE WAS UNDAMAGED MEANING TRAFFIC WAS ONLY SLOWED, NOT DISRUPTED. A SAFETY SYSTEM PREVENTED ANY ACCIDENT AS THE RESULT OF THE DAMAGED LINE. A KNOWLEDGABLE BLACK JOURNALIST TOLD CONOFFS THAT HE HAS NOT HEARD OF ANY LOCAL PLANS FOR A WORK BOYCOTT ON JUNE 16 OR 17 EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BEEN SOUNDING OUT LOCAL BLACK OPINION ON THE MATTER. SAME SOURCE HAD NO IDEA WHO MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR RAIL LINE EXPLOSION.

3. JOHANNESBURG - SOWETO CLEARLY HEATING UP WITH REPORTS OF ACTIVITY ON EAST RAND AS WELL. STUDENTS BOYCOTTING CLASSES AT MANY SCHOOLS, ALTHOUGH REPORTS OF A COMPLETE BOYCOTT INCORRECT. POLICE HAVE USED TEAR GAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, INCLUDING NEW "SNEEZE MACHINE", A FOGGING DEVICE THAT SPEWS MIXTURE OF TEAR GAS AND TALCUM POWDER. SEVERAL REPORTS OF ROBBERIES OF DELIVERY VANS, POLICE HAVE PROMISED PROTECTION FOR ALL VANS IN AND OUT OF SOWETO. ROAD BLOCKS ARE UP IN MANY AREAS AND POLICE ARE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, POLITELY SEARCHING VEHICLES AND ASKING PASSENGERS FOR DOCUMENTS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO PROCEED INTO JOHANNESBURG. INDICATIONS ARE WORK BOYCOTT WILL BE OBSERVED BY MANY, AT LEAST TOMORROW, HOWEVER A FEW JOHANNESBURG FIRMS HAVE INDICATED "NO WORK-NO PAY." POLICE STILL BEING HELD BACK IN MOST CASES WITH NO DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS.

4. PRETORIA - TOWNSHIPS WERE APPARENTLY QUIET LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING (JUNE 15). MAMELODI YESTERDAY HAD SPORADIC INCIDENTS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT DAY, BUT POLICE KEPT THINGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER CONTROL. SEVERAL CARS AND BUSES WERE DAMAGED BY STONES BUT NO INJURIES REPORTED. BOTH ATTERIDGEVILLE AND GA-RANKUWA/MABOPANE ARE REPORTED QUIET BY RESIDENTS. FOLLOW-UP CONTACT WITH ATTERIDGEVILLE SRC CONFIRMS THAT THEY ARE NOT CALLING FOR WORK BOYCOTTS. THEY ONLY ASK THAT WORKERS WEAR BLACK OR BLACK ARMBANDS. LOCAL EMPLOYEES ARE STILL NERVOUS, HOWEVER, THAT TSOTSI ELEMENTS COULD MAKE TROUBLE FOR PERSONS TRAVELLING TOMORROW TOWARDS CITY. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, EXPLOSIONS, BOYCOTTS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE 15 SUMMARY: PRESS HAS REPORTED EXPLOSION WHICH DAMAGED BUSY COMMUTER RAIL LINE OUTSIDE DURBAN EARLY THIS MORN  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SF  
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**Review Markings:**  
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